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PROGRAM Crossfire STATION CNN-TV

DATE December 12, 1986 7:30 P.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Max Hugel and William Corson Interviewed

ANNOUNCER: Live from Washington, Crossfire. On the left, Tom Braden. On the right, Robert Novak. In the crossfire, covert operations expert William Corson; and in New York, Max Hugel, former Deputy Director of the CIA.

BRADEN: Good evening. Welcome to Crossfire.

Now it turns out that William Casey, Director of the CIA, first encouraged Ronald Reagan to begin the secret process of sending arms to the Ayatollah's army. Now it turns out that William Casey was also the first to learn that the secret might be blown. Some of Casey's friends and acquaintances had put money in to the secret deal. They weren't getting paid off. They were threatening to go public. So Casey went to Oliver North and said, "Is any of that money being diverted?"

All of which leaves Washington with a suspicious afterthought. Oliver North couldn't have done it on his own. Nobody agrees to that. Could anybody have done it on his own? Why, yes, of course: Bill Casey.

ROBERT NOVAK: You know, Tom, I would call that introduction disinformation, except it's really part of a witch hunt against Bill Casey, who has restored the morale and the esprit de corps of the CIA.

And I suppose that Colonel Corson, since you don't like him any better than Tom, you join right in that witch hunt.

Isn't it a fact, however, that there is not one shred of evidence to indicate that Bill Casey was running this operation on his own as a rogue elephant?

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